

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 814

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to commend Senator Ophelia Ford for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their community and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ophelia Ford is one such distinguished public servant who served her constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, respectfully launching her candidacy for public office in the special election of 2005, Ophelia Ford sought to serve the people of the 29th Senatorial District in Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, through no personal action or fault of her own, Senator Ophelia Ford's election victory was subsequently challenged and the results were nullified by vote of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure as Senator, Ophelia Ford conducted herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ophelia Ford's concern and compassion for her fellow Tennesseans is evidenced in particular by two pieces of legislation she sponsored ,one to require longer criminal sentences for those selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a place of worship and the other to raise the age that a minor may purchase fireworks from 10 to 14; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in business education and administration, Ophelia Ford is a licensed funeral practitioner with N.J. Ford Funeral Parlor; and

WHEREAS, during her career, Ophelia Ford has worked in the fields of public relations, communications, and product development with a variety of enterprises, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, WLOK radio station, the Memphis Board of Education, and Memphis Area Legal Services, where she served as an aide to current Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton; and

WHEREAS, Ophelia Ford is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Ophelia Ford is a beloved mother and grandmother and is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her treasured children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ophelia Ford is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Ophelia Ford for her estimable service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, thank her for her tireless work in service of the good people of Senate District 29, and commend her for her contributions and good works in service of this State's citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Senator Ford our best wishes for much success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.